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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 14 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to a series of violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded from 6 to 9 April 1997.

On 6 April, 24 F-16 Turkish military planes, flying in formation from 0745 to 1415 hours, repeatedly violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus.

On 7 April, 28 Turkish military planes, flying in formation from 0821 to 1636 hours, violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic.

On 8 April, 14 Turkish military planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic from 0757 to 0810 hours.

On 9 April, 26 F-16 Turkish military planes violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic from 1027 to 1715 hours.

These Turkish actions heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement. At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the

airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. The violations, moreover, continue to take place at a sensitive phase of the efforts to resume the intercommunal talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative